

MARYLAND—REFINERS OF SUGAR—BALTIMORE.

FEBRUARY 6, 1833.

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of Union.

To the honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the undersigned refiners of Baltimore,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That they have observed in the public prints a bill reported for the reduction of the tariff. In consequence of this, your memorialists humbly beg leave to state,

1st. That the present depressed state of the sugar refineries in Baltimore, as well as in the other Atlantic cities, is owing to the high duties on clayed sugar.

2d. Your memorialists further state, that, at New Orleans, a large and extensive refinery has been erected by foreigners, and with a foreign capital of half a million of dollars, chartered and encouraged by the Legislature of Louisiana, with the avowed intention of monopolizing, in a few years, the whole refining business of the country.

3d. They further state that it has been publicly expressed by one of the acting partners of the Louisiana Refining Company at Philadelphia, in the beginning of November last, "that the Louisiana Refining Company were determined to put down all other refineries in the United States." So far, they have verified their intentions, by sending into our market, as well as into others, large quantities of refined sugar, not by hundreds, but by thousands of barrels, and have it sold at public auction, at reduced prices, at which we are unable to sell our refined sugar, except with a loss, and which we have been compelled, to do, to sell at all.

4th. Your memorialists further state, that the Louisiana Refining Company can purchase sugar from 4 to 5 cents per pound, for which we have to pay, in our market, from 7 to 7½ cents per pound.

At present we pay for Havana clayed sugar 8 cents per pound, which article we have commonly used in our refineries; but if the duties on clayed sugar were taken off, we should then be placed on an equality with the New Orleans refiners, and be able to purchase clayed sugar at low prices, and thereby be enabled to give to the community refined sugar at low prices, and as cheap as could be produced from any where else.

5th. Your memorialists further state, that, in former years, from 14 to 15 thousand boxes clayed Havana sugar, besides clayed Brazil sugar, have been

yearly refined in Baltimore, amounting from eight to nine millions of pounds. But it has so much decreased in quantity, that, on a fair calculation, not over two millions of pounds have been refined during the last year; and we are grieved to say that we shall have to stop all our operations in a short time, should the duties on clayed sugar be continued.

6th. They further state, that the most of them have their all invested in the refining business, in buildings and machinery, which cannot be used for any other branch of manufacturing, and will be a total loss, and ruinous to them.

7th. Your memorialists relied on the faith of Congress that they would be protected in a fair and honest competition; but confess themselves unable, under present existing duties on clayed sugar, to continue with any incorporated body of mammoth wealth, favored and protected by a State Legislature; besides the great advantage they have over us of purchasing the raw sugar sixty per cent. lower than we possibly can purchase the same article at present, in our markets. They would even gain by sacrificing thousands for the sake of becoming the sole producer of refined sugar, and thereby divert that branch of business and trade from our city, as well as from the other Atlantic cities, which has given employment to many hundreds of persons.

The wages and other expenses paid yearly by the refiners of Baltimore, may be estimated from thirty-five to forty thousand dollars; and if we may take in consideration the loss of trade to the importers of sugar and ship owners, we may fairly estimate the loss which our city will suffer by the suppression of the refineries, of no less than one hundred thousand dollars yearly, which money was principally paid to the working people. The losses to Philadelphia, New York and Boston, will be by far greater.

8th. Your memorialists are of opinion, and it is a general opinion, that, if the duties on clayed sugar would be taken off, it would not interfere with the sugar made by the Louisiana planters, because that kind of sugar is preferred by the community at large, and bought in preference of any kind of muscovado sugar imported; clayed sugar being only used for refining and re-exportation.

9th. Your memorialists, therefore, most humbly pray that Congress will take their memorial into tender and serious consideration, and not deprive them of the means by which they have heretofore sustained themselves and families, and contributed to the prosperity of their city and State, by continuing the duties on clayed sugar, which must inevitably result in the ruin of many an honest and industrious citizen.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

ANDREW MUNCKS.
 JOSIAH SMALL.
 G. W. & H. MILLER.
 JOHN FRANCISCUS.
 EHLEN & KEHLENBECK
 GEO W HOFFMAN.
 D. BRUNNER.
 H. & S. RIEMAN.

BALTIMORE, 29th January, 1833.